

slang: informal words or phrases used in casual conversation. Sometimes use is limited to a particular social group.

Acronyms have become a part of American slang.

Example: yuppie – an acronym for Young Urban Professional

Sometimes slang permits one to talk about social taboos and unpleasant realities (euphemisms).

Examples:     crippled → handicapped → disabled → differently-abled

Words once called "offensive" were later described as "objectionable," and later "questionable."

Sometimes slang involves the creation of new words or includes words from another language, thereby creating a deviation from standard language use. Slang may also involve changing the meaning of words already in use.

As the new language is created, it is selectively understood only by those involved in its creation, resulting in exclusion of nongroup members. This may or may not be intentional. What may be more intentional is the inclusion of one's self to a group by using slang.

Examples:     cool (adj.) Neat, exciting, awesome, amazing, good, very good, excellent, appealing, nice, acceptable; a generic positive. *I got an "A" on my midterm; cool!*

dog/ dogg/ dawg (noun & nom.) A friend or buddy (usually male). *Dog, you and me have each other's back.*

Slang is distinguished from jargon, the technical vocabulary of a particular profession, as jargon is (in theory) not used to exclude non-group members from the conversation, but rather deals with the technical peculiarities of a given field which require a specialized vocabulary. Professions may also have acronyms that fit under one or more of the above described circumstances for which slang develops.

Example:     AWOL – Absent Without Lease; a punishable offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, also known as UCMJ.

Big Chicken Dinner – used in the military to refer to a Bad Conduct Discharge; the less severe of the two types of punitive discharge that may be awarded by court martial. A dishonorable discharge is more severe.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slang>

<http://www.intranet.csupomona.edu/~jasanders/slang/top20.html>

[http://www.galegroup.com/free\\_resources/glossary/glossary\\_s.htm#slang](http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/glossary/glossary_s.htm#slang)